

Regulations for Earthdog Tests for Small Terriers and Dachshunds

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AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT

The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

Information regarding AKC Earthdog events can be found at: www.akc.org/events/earthdog/

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Chapter 1: General Regulations

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of non-competitive Earthdog tests is to offer breeders and owners of small Terriers and Dachshunds a standardized gauge to measure their dogs natural aptitude and trained hunting and working behaviors when exposed to an underground hunting situation. The noncompetitive program begins with a basic introduction to den work and quarry and progresses through gradual steps to require the dog to demonstrate that it is willing to perform the required tasks including seeking its quarry, locating and working it underground.

Earthdog tests are a sport and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and outside the test field.

Section 2. Earthdog Tests Defined.

A member Earthdog test is a test at which qualifications for titles are awarded, given by a club or association, which is a member of The American Kennel Club.

A licensed Earthdog test is a test at which qualifications for titles are awarded, given by a club or association which is not a member of The American Kennel Club, but which has been licensed by the American Kennel Club to hold the test.

Sanctioned Earthdog tests are informal events at which dogs may participate but not for titles, held by a club or association by obtaining the sanction of the American Kennel Club. Generally, sanctioned events are held by clubs to qualify for approval to hold licensed or member club events.

Section 3. Eligibility to Hold Earthdog Tests.

The Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club may, at its discretion, grant permission to clubs or associations to hold Earthdog tests which shall be governed by such Rules and the Board of Directors shall determine Regulations as from time to time.

Section 4. Making Application.

A club or association that meets the requirements of the American Kennel Club that wishes to hold an Earthdog test at which qualifications for titles may be earned must make application to The American Kennel Club on the form provided for permission to hold the event. An application fee of \$35.00 must accompany each application.

Applications for licensed or member Earthdog tests must be received by the American Kennel Club at least 90 days prior to the date(s) of the event.

A club may be approved to hold up to eight licensed

or member events in a calendar year. Trials shall not be approved on the same day within 200 miles.

A national specialty club may apply to hold an Earthdog Test open only to its own breed in conjunction with its national specialty show.

A club or association that meets all of the requirements of the American Kennel Club may be approved to hold a sanctioned test by applying on a form provided by the American Kennel Club and paying an application fee of \$15.00. Applications for sanctioned tests must be filed with AKC at least 4 weeks prior to the date(s) of the event.

All of these Regulations shall govern sanctioned tests except for those which specifically state that they apply to licensed and member tests.

Section 5. AKC Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline.

All of AKC's Rules applying to Registration and Discipline shall apply to all Earthdog tests held under these Regulations.

Section 6. Eligibility of Dogs.

Earthdog tests shall be open to eligible breeds six months of age or older that have been either individually registered with the AKC, recorded with the Foundation Stock Service (FSS), individually registered with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration, or dogs of an eligible breed that have been granted a Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL/ILP). A dog with an AKC Limited Registration shall be eligible to be entered in Earthdog tests, as are spayed and neutered dogs.

A dog that is individually registered with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration may be entered in licensed or member tests that are held not later than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member test in which the dog was entered, but only provided that the AKC litter registration number of the individual foreign registration number and the name of the country of birth are shown on the entry form, and provided further that the same name, which in the case of an imported dog must be the name on the foreign registration, is used for the dog each time.

For a complete listing of the breeds eligible to participate in AKC Earthdog events, please visit the AKC website at http://www.akc.org/events/earthdog/eligible_breeds.cfm.

Inasmuch as Dachshunds and Terriers are hunting dogs, dogs disfigured as the result of accident or injury but otherwise qualified shall be eligible. Dogs that are blind and/or deaf shall not be eligible. Blind means without useful vision, and deaf means without useful hearing.

The judge shall determine whether the dog is fit to participate.

Dogs may enter only one regular class at an Earthdog test, except dogs which have earned a Master Earthdog Title may enter more than one regular class (Regular classes are classes from which the dogs may earn titles, i.e. JE, SE, ME). No further title certificates will be awarded.

A dog is not eligible to enter a class if the Judge of that class or any member of that Judge's family owns or co-owns the dog. The word "family" shall include a spouse, a sibling, a parent or a child, whether natural or adopted, of the Judge in question but shall not extend to other blood or legal relations.

Bitches in season shall not be eligible to enter the test and shall not be allowed within 100 feet of any testing area during the running of any class. Bitches in season are allowed at the general test site but should not be allowed to distract other dogs during the test hours. Entry fees for bitches in season may be refunded at the option of the club.

Section 7. Earthdog Test Secretary and Earthdog Test Chairman.

A club holding an Earthdog test must name a Test Secretary and Test Chairman. The Chairman must be a member of the club.

The premium list for all licensed or member tests shall designate the Test Secretary as receiving entries.

Test Secretaries and Chairmen shall be ineligible to Judge at the event in which they act in these official capacities.

Section 8. Appointment of Earthdog Test Committee.

A club or association that has been granted permission by the American Kennel Club to hold a test must appoint an Earthdog Test Committee which will have complete responsibility for planning and conducting the event. This committee shall be comprised of at least five club members (including the Chairman) and shall ensure the safe, efficient, and orderly conduct of the event. A minimum of three event committee members must be on the grounds at all times during the running of the event, and they should be prepared to respond to an emergency or to hold a misconduct hearing. The Committee must have on hand, on the day of the test, assistance and materials sufficient to efficiently make repairs to the test area and must ensure that the area is free of dangerous materials or conditions.

The Committee is responsible for compliance with all of these Regulations except those which come under the sole jurisdiction of the Judges.

Section 9. Veterinarian.

Every club holding a licensed or member test should arrange to have a veterinarian in attendance throughout the duration of the test. The club may elect to have a veterinarian “on call” but must ensure that veterinary assistance will be available should it be needed. The premium list must state whether the veterinarian will be in attendance or “on call”.

Section 10. Declining Entries.

A Test Committee may decline any entries or may remove any dog from the event for cause, but in each such instance shall file good and sufficient reasons for doing so with the American Kennel Club.

Section 11. Ribbons and Rosettes.

A club or association holding a licensed or member test shall offer a ribbon or rosette to each dog that qualifies.

Each ribbon or rosette shall be at least two inches wide and approximately eight inches long, and shall bear on the face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the words “Earthdog Test”, and “qualifying” and the name of the test-giving club or association. Ribbons and rosettes shall be dark green in color, and light green for the Introduction to Quarry class, and rosettes shall have a white center streamer and white button.

Additional required information (name of class, date, and location of the event) may be printed on the ribbon or rosette, or may be affixed on the back with labels.

The test-giving club may offer prizes or trophies to qualifying dogs, so long as they are specified in the premium list.

If ribbons or rosettes are awarded at sanctioned tests, they shall be light green.

Section 12. Risk.

Owners or handlers entering dogs in a test do so at their own risk and agree to assume responsibility for any damage caused by them or by their dogs. They also agree to abide by all of the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club.

Section 13. Premium Lists.

A premium list must be provided for licensed or member club tests. The premium list shall be printed (any printing or copying process is acceptable), and shall state

whether the event is “licensed by the American Kennel Club” or held by an “AKC Member club.” Premium lists shall measure not less than 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches nor more than 8 1/2 x 11 inches.

The following information shall be included in the premium list for a licensed or member test: Name of the club or association offering the test, the exact location and date of the test, name and address of the Test Chairman, names of the Test Committee members (minimum of five including Chairman), time testing shall commence, entry fees, tests offered, names and addresses of Judges including their assignments; name, address, and phone number of the Test Secretary, date and closing time of entries, a listing of the club officers with addresses, and an official AKC entry form. Premium lists shall also include the name and address of the veterinarian(s) on duty or on call during the test, and specify whether ribbons or rosettes will be offered, and any additional trophies or prizes offered by individuals or the test-giving club. The order in which the classes are to be run shall also be printed in the premium list (see Chapter 3, Section 1 for scheduling classes.).

The Earthdog Committee may make such regulations for the government of their Earthdog test as shall be considered necessary, provided that such regulations do not conflict with any rule or procedure of the American Kennel Club. Such regulations shall be printed in the premium list of a licensed or member Earthdog test and violations therefore shall be considered the same violations of the Rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.

One copy of the premium list must be mailed to AKC, Performance Events, 8051 Arco Corporate Dr., Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617-3390 or emailed to: earthdog@akc.org at the time of mailing to prospective entrants.

Only official American Kennel Club Titles may be included in any AKC publication.

Section 14. Closing of Entries, Running Order.

The closing time for entries, and the location at which entries shall be taken shall be printed in the premium list.

Entries for a licensed or member club test must close at any time prior to the start of each test level.

If entries are to be limited, the numerical limitation(s) must be stated in the premium list and entries will close when the numerical limit or limits have been reached.

A club or association holding a licensed or member club test shall not accept any entries received after the closing date and time specified on the premium list.

At the option of the test-giving club, dogs may be run in the order that entries are received or the running

order may be established by a random drawing of entries in each class. In either case, multiple entries from the same handler should be separated when possible.

A printed or typed list of the running order must be posted prior to the start of judging of each class. The dogs shall be run in the order posted. The Test Committee or the Judges may modify the running order to expedite the running of the test. Any dog not ready when called for judgment shall be moved to the end of the running order except in the Master Earthdog class. In the Master Earthdog class, any dog not present within five minutes after its brace is called will be marked absent by the Judge and the remaining dog in the brace will be run as or with the bye dog. The Judge is not expected to wait for late arriving dogs.

Each entry in a licensed or member club test must be made on an official American Kennel Club entry form. Each entry form must be completed in full and must be signed by the owner or his agent duly authorized to make the entry, and the information given on the form must be that which applies to the entered dog.

Section 15. Recording Fees.

At every licensed or member test held under these Regulations, a recording fee of \$3.50 shall be required for each entry except for entries in non-regular classes. The recording fee is to help defray expenses involved in maintaining the records and applies to all entries, regardless of whether they participate.

Section 16. Submission of Records.

Clubs holding licensed or member club tests must utilize the standard AKC official judges report sheets which will be automatically supplied to the Test Secretary following approval of the judging panel.

Within 7 days of the completion of a licensed or member club test, the Test Secretary shall forward to American Kennel Club, Event Records, the official judges report sheets containing the names and other identifying information for all qualified dogs. The judges sheets must be signed and certified by the judge(s) and the Test Secretary, and forwarded to AKC, Event Records, a complete Test Secretary's report, and the recording fees.

Penalty for non-compliance is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and five dollars (\$5.00) for each day's delay beyond the deadline and other penalties as may be imposed by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club.

A club or association holding a licensed or member club test shall retain the entry forms and a copy of the official judges' sheets for at least six months.

Section 17. Cancellation of Awards.

If an ineligible dog has been entered and run in a licensed or member club test, or if the person or persons named as owner or owners on the entry form are not the person or persons who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed, or if the dog is run in a class for which it is not entered, or if its entry form is deemed invalid by The American Kennel Club under the Rules and Regulations, all resulting awards shall be cancelled by The American Kennel Club.

If an award is cancelled by The American Kennel Club, the entrant of the dog shall return all prizes to the Secretary of the test-giving club within 10 days of receipt of notice from The American Kennel Club of said cancellation.

Section 18. Disturbances.

The Judge must promptly remove from participation any dog which cannot be controlled, and may excuse any dog he or she considers unfit to participate. The Judge or the Test Committee may remove from the test area any dog or person that disrupts the testing of the dogs.

The Judge must also promptly remove any handler who willfully interferes with another dog or handler, or who abuses his or her dog in the test area, or in any way displays conduct prejudicial to the sport of purebred dogs and the American Kennel Club, and must report such incidents to the Test Committee for further action under Chapter 5 of AKC's Registration and Discipline Rules. (Refer also to AKC's Guide for Event Committees in Handling Misconduct which is supplied to the Test Secretary.)

Section 19. Disqualified by an Event Committee.

Any dog, that in the opinion of the Event Committee or The American Kennel Club, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event, resulting in injury, and is believed by that Event Committee or The American Kennel Club to present a hazard to persons or other dogs shall be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed immediately with the Executive Secretary of The American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to The American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated.

Chapter 2 Instructions for Test Committees and Judges

Section 1. Approval of Judges.

Judges officiating at licensed or member club tests

must be approved by the American Kennel Club. A club or association may submit the name of any approved Judges for approval to have the Judge officiate at the test. Such approved Judges may enter dogs in any classes which they are not judging, and for which they are not advertised as Judges, and provided that handling the dog does not disrupt the smooth running of either the class judged or the class entered.

Section 2. Judges Decisions, Responsibilities.

The decisions of the Judge shall be final in all matters relating to the performance of the dog. Full discretionary power is given to the Judge to withhold any and all qualifications for lack of merit.

The Judge is responsible for making the test meaningful and challenging, but never out of reach of the dog and handler who, at an Introduction to Quarry test may never have been presented with an open earth before. The Judge's function is to educate as well as evaluate.

The Judge is responsible for ensuring compliance with these Regulations throughout a test, and for ensuring that quarry is properly cared for and protected during the event.

Disqualified by a Judge. A dog is not eligible to be entered or run in any licensed or member club Earthdog Test in any category if the dog has on two occasions been made the subject of the following report: If a dog, while under judgment at an AKC licensed or member club Earthdog Test attacks another dog, and the Judges are unanimously of the opinion that such attack was without reasonable cause, the Judges shall identify the offending dog on the judging sheet and the name of the offending dog shall be listed in the report of the Earthdog Test sent to the American Kennel Club.

Section 3. Judge's and Test Committee's Responsibilities.

The Test Committee and officials of the club holding the test are responsible for providing quarry, den liners, test material, facilities and equipment that meet the requirements of the Regulations.

The Judge must check quarry, test layout, and den liners before starting the test. The Judge shall examine the entire length of the den as well as supervising the scenting and covering of the dens before starting the test. If the Judge deems the facilities, test layout, or den construction inadequate for the event and no corrections or modifications can be made, the Judge shall cancel the event. Entry fees shall be refunded by the Test Committee, and the Judge reimbursed for his or her expenses. The Judge shall not receive any additional fees that might have previously been agreed upon.

The Test Committee and the Judge shall have the option of re-scheduling the event, and, if re-scheduled, refunds shall be made only to those handlers that decline to participate in the re-scheduled test.

Section 4. Judge's Stewards and Apprentices.

Each Judge shall have assigned to him or her a Judge's Steward. Test Stewards should also be appointed to assist in the conduct of the event and in control of the test area. At the Judge's discretion, an apprentice Judge may be in the test area, and may score the dogs independently; the apprentice Judge's scores shall not be considered in determining whether a dog passes or fails. They may listen as the Judge explains the results of the test to the participants, but may not offer any additional comments to the participants. Only one apprentice Judge may be permitted in the test area at one time. Apprentice Judges shall be under the same entry restrictions as the actual or advertised judge.

Apprentice Judges score sheets shall not be distributed to participants and must be retained by the apprentice judge and submitted with their judging application.

Section 5. Retesting.

If, in the Judge's opinion, a dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions, the dog may be retested either immediately or later in the day at the discretion of the Judge.

Section 6. Scoring, Announcements of Score.

The tests shall be scored on a pass (qualifying) or fail (non-qualifying) basis in accord with the qualifying performance descriptions in Chapter 4 of these Regulations.

The Test Secretary shall hold the judging forms until judging of the class begins. During the judging of the class, the Judge or Judge's Steward shall be responsible for holding the forms until collected by the Test Secretary.

The Test Secretary or Judge will present ribbons to the dogs, which have qualified at the completion of each class.

Chapter 3 Classes, Qualifying Scores, Awarding of Titles

Section 1. Classes.

The classes at a licensed or member test are Introduction to Quarry (non-regular with no credit toward titles), Junior Earthdog, Senior Earthdog and Master Earthdog.

Clubs may offer any or all classes at licensed and member club events. All classes are open to all eligible dogs (see Chapter 1, Section 4) except as specified in Sections 4 and 5 of this Chapter.

Regular classes shall be run in any order, or classes may be run concurrently at the discretion of the Test Committee. The order in which the classes are to be run must be printed in the premium list.

Section 2. Qualifying Scores.

The total number of qualifications required for the issuance of the titles Junior Earthdog, Senior Earthdog and Master Earthdog shall be established by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

Section 3. Junior Earthdog Class and Title (JE).

The Junior Earthdog class is open to all eligible breeds of dogs (see Chapter 1, Section 6) that have not been recorded as or received qualifying scores in Senior Earthdog or Master Earthdog. Except that dogs which have earned a Master Earthdog title may enter Junior Earthdog Class.

In order to be recorded as a Junior Earthdog, a dog must be registered with the AKC, and must have a record of having qualified in the Junior Earthdog test in two (2) AKC licensed or member club tests under two different Judges.

Upon completion of these requirements, an AKC Junior Earthdog (JE) certificate will be issued to the owner, and the dog shall be identified as a Junior Earthdog in all official AKC records by the suffix title JE.

A dog that has been recorded as a Junior Earthdog may continue to enter the Junior Earthdog test, but no further Junior Earthdog certificates will be issued. A Junior Earthdog is no longer eligible to enter the Junior Earthdog class after the dog has acquired a Senior Earthdog qualifying score and until that dog is awarded a Master Earthdog title.

Section 4. Senior Earthdog Class and Title (SE).

The Senior Earthdog class is open to dogs that have acquired the Junior Earthdog title and to dogs that have been recorded by the AKC as Senior Earthdogs and Master Earthdogs, but no further Senior certificates will be issued for Senior or Master titled dogs.

In order to be recorded as a Senior Earthdog, a dog must be registered with the AKC, and must have a record of having qualified in the Senior Earthdog test at three (3) AKC licensed or member club tests under two different Judges.

Upon completion of these requirements, an AKC Senior Earthdog (SE) certificate will be issued to the owner, and the dog shall be identified as a Senior Earthdog in all official AKC records by the suffix title SE, which shall supersede the JE title.

Section 5. Master Earthdog Class and Title (ME).

The Master Earthdog class is open only to dogs that have acquired the Senior Earthdog title. A dog that has been recorded as a Master Earthdog may continue to enter the Master Earthdog test but no further Master Earthdog certificates will be issued.

In order to be recorded as a Master Earthdog, a dog must be registered with the AKC, and must have a record of having qualified in the Master Earthdog test at four (4) AKC licensed or member club Earthdog tests under three different Judges.

Upon completion of these requirements, an AKC Master Earthdog (ME) certificate will be issued to the owner and the dog will be identified as a Master Earthdog in all official AKC records by the suffix title ME which shall supersede any AKC Earthdog test title that may have been previously earned.

Section 6. Endurance Earthdog Class and Title (EE). Any dog that has acquired a Master Earthdog title is eligible to earn an Endurance Earthdog title. In order to earn an Endurance Earthdog title, a dog must on five occasions pass both the Senior Earthdog test and the Master Earthdog test at the same event. This title may be earned repeatedly. The title will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the number of times the dog has met the requirements.

The owner of the dog must track the dog's double qualifications on a form provided by the AKC. Upon completion of five double qualifications, the owner must submit the form along with a fee of \$30.00 to the AKC Performance Events Department. (Performance Events Department, 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617)

Upon verification of the accomplishments, an AKC Endurance Earthdog (EE) certificate will be issued to the owner and the dog will be identified as an Endurance Earthdog in all official AKC records by the suffix title EE, which will be in addition to the dog's ME title.

Chapter 4

Den Specifications, Running and Judging, Test and Performance Descriptions

Section 1. Test Area Conditions and Dimensions.

The test area for the Introduction to Quarry test shall be no less than 40 feet by 40 feet, with no portion of the den including the point of release, less than 10 feet from the side of the test area.

The test area(s) for the Junior, Senior and Master tests shall be of a size sufficient to contain the dens, with

no portion of the den including the point of release less than 20 feet from the edge of the test area.

Clubs should use a barrier or otherwise demarcate a test area to prevent spectator interference with the work of the dogs.

The earth shall be prepared to look as natural as possible. Brush and other natural material may be used to prepare the earth but should not block the entrance to the earth. The test area for all tests shall be clearly marked, shall not contain unsafe conditions, and shall be free of dangerous materials.

The liners for the dens shall be constructed to ensure a safe and danger free environment for dogs, quarry, handlers and Judges. The basic den construction allows for an earth-floored tunnel approximately nine (9) inches by nine (9) inches. The dens must have protective bars affixed to the quarry end of the last liner section to prevent the dogs from damaging the cage.

The liners shall be set in the ground such that when the liners are covered the top surface of the liner is not visible. The liners must be well covered, and the top of the liner (not visible) must be flush with the ground. Care shall be taken to assure that the bottom surface of the earth is reasonably smooth and as even as possible.

The dens shall be located to minimize outside distractions. The earth may be dug up to one week prior to the test day or permanent dens may be used, however, no dog shall be allowed to enter the earth within 24 hours of the start of the test, except when the den is used for a sanctioned, licensed or member club Earthdog test. The Judge shall oversee the placement of the liners and the scenting of the den on the day of the test. Only the dog currently being tested shall be allowed in the test area. Under no circumstances shall more than one dog be allowed in the test area at any time except during the Master Earthdog test. Spectators shall be allowed outside the test area provided that they are quiet and do not distract the dogs. No dogs shall be allowed in the area immediately adjacent to the test area. The dogs waiting to be tested shall be kept at least 100 feet from the perimeter of the test area, in a holding area so designated.

The dens shall be scented, using prepared rat scent or commercial wildlife scent, to simulate an actual den. In the Introduction to Quarry and Junior Earthdog tests, the entire length of the den must be scented, no more than one hour before the start of the Test. In the Senior and Master Earthdog tests, the scent line shall be laid only on the primary quarry trail. Extreme care must be

taken not to allow false trails to receive any scent which may unnecessarily confuse the dogs. The Judge shall be responsible for overseeing the correct scenting of the dens.

The scent trail shall be laid evenly from the release point to a point under the quarry cage in Junior and Senior, and from a point twenty feet from the main entrance to the primary quarry area in the Master class. If, in the opinion of the Judge, the scent trail has weakened due to the number of dogs entering the earth, the Judge shall direct the Test Steward or Judge's Steward to lightly re-scent the den, using a spray bottle or scent drag.

Practice Sessions: The Test Committee may hold practice sessions only after all actual judging has concluded. The practice sessions must be under the supervision of a Test Committee member, who shall be responsible for the conduct of the practice and the care of the quarry during the practice. In the event of a two test weekend, the actual test den site may not be used for practice on the first day unless the den layout is substantially changed for the second day.

Section 2. Quarry Requirements and Care.

The quarry to be used shall be adult rats. Two rats are required and shall be securely caged at all times. Water and food must be provided for the rats during the test. The Judge shall be responsible for the care and safety of the quarry during the class.

Alternatively, clubs can use an artificial quarry which should be located behind a barrier, properly scented and capable of movement (i.e. simulated lunging). For example, an ice-fishing jig set sideways to hit the front of the cage would be acceptable.

The quarry will be placed in the den just before the beginning of the test. The den will then be securely covered to minimize the dog from scenting the quarry from above.

Section 3. Qualifying Performances.

The Judge's certification of a qualifying performance for any dog constitutes certification to The American Kennel Club that the dog on this occasion has evidenced abilities at least in accordance with minimum standards and that the abilities demonstrated justify the awarding of the title for the class. A qualifying score must never be awarded to a dog which has not exhibited abilities that meet the minimum requirements.

Section 4. Introduction to Quarry.

This test is a simple instinct test requiring no training or previous exposure to earthwork. No titles are earned and it is not a prerequisite for advanced tests. Young dogs, dogs with no previous working experience, and novice handlers are encouraged to enter. As it may be the first den experience for some dogs, the Judge and the handler shall do their utmost to assure that it is a positive experience for the dog. The Judge shall be allowed to use discretion in encouraging the dog by scratching or moving the cage, or some other method felt necessary to get a true reaction from the dog.

The dog shall be brought to the test area entrance on a solid 4 – 6 foot lead. The handler may carry the dog to the release point or may walk the dog on lead to the release point, but the dog may not pass the release point prior to the start of the test. The handler may encourage the dog up to this point. The Judge must make sure that each handler understands the test requirements before starting the dog.

Section 5. Introductory Test - Den Design.

The den for the test shall be the standard liners approximately 9 inches by 9 inches, set so as to provide a tunnel approximately 10 feet in length, with one 90 degree turn. The handler shall release the dog from a point directly in front of the den, approximately 10 feet from the entrance. The Judge and Steward shall attempt to provide as little distraction as possible.

Section 6. Introductory Test - Qualifying Performance.

The Judge shall direct the handler to remove the collar and lead. The handler will then step up to the release point with the dog, making sure that the dog does not pass the release point, for this shall cause the dog to fail. At the direction of the judge, the handler is allowed to give the dog one short command on release, placing the dog on the ground or releasing the dog no higher than waist level. Throwing or pushing the dog in the direction of the den entrance shall not be permitted, and shall cause the dog to fail the test. After release, the dog must be given time to find the entrance on his own, but if the dog is unsure, the handler may walk up to the den entrance, to the side of the scent trail, and encourage the dog (e.g., by voice encouragement, tapping on the den). This action shall not cause the dog to fail. However, the handler may not encourage the dog physically by picking it up or touching it. Once the dog has entered the den, the handler **MUST** remain silent and still in order to incur no penalty.

The Judge or the Judge's Steward shall time the test. The time shall start when the dog enters the earth. The dog shall be allowed 2 minutes from the time it first enters the earth to begin working the quarry. The dog may exit and re-enter the earth during the time allowed, provided it has not started working the quarry. (Note: In all tests the quarry is in a protective cage, which cannot come into contact with the dog outside the den.)

The dog shall not qualify if it requires over 2 minutes to begin working the quarry.

Once the dog begins working the quarry, the Judge or Judge's Steward shall begin timing the working time, and shall continue timing until the dog quits or the time limit is reached.

Once the dog begins working it must work continuously for 30 seconds, with no encouragement, to qualify. Work is defined as digging, barking, growling, lunging, biting at the quarry, or any other action that, in the opinion of the Judge, indicates the dog's willingness to engage the quarry. Any definite break in the dog's work shall stop the time, but a change from one form of work to another shall not stop the time as long as the dog continues working in a natural manner.

If, in the Judge's opinion, the dog is not reacting to the presence of the quarry, the Judge may attempt to interest the dog with no penalty to the dog. This may include shaking the quarry cage, tapping or scratching the cage, or use of a noisemaker, but should cease as soon as the dog begins working. Since the test is designed for dogs with little or no experience, mild encouragement by the Judge shall not cause a failure.

Dogs that begin working the quarry within two minutes and work continuously for 30 seconds shall pass.

The Judge shall mark the judging form with the time, indicating whether the dog passed or failed and may make written comments as provided on the form. The completed judging forms may be held by either the Judge's Steward or the Test Steward, and collected only by the Test Secretary or Test Chairman.

At the completion of each dog's test, the Judge shall inform the handler whether or not the dog passed. Following the class, the Judge shall announce the names of those dogs which have passed.

Section 7. Junior Earthdog Test.

The evaluation of a dog's ability can never be precise. However the primary purpose of the Earthdog is to pursue quarry to ground, hold the quarry, and alert the hunter where to dig, or to bolt the quarry. Whether the dog is successful in its primary purpose is determined by its possession of a unique set of natural abilities. This test is designed to help evaluate the dog's willingness to enter a scented tunnel, drive to proceed through the darkness, to recognize quarry, and the desire to work it strongly and persistently.

The test shall consist of two parts, (a) the approach to the quarry and (b) working the quarry. In order to qualify, a dog must pass both parts of the test.

Section 8. Junior Earthdog Test - Den Design.

The den for the Junior Earthdog Test shall be constructed using the standard liners approximately 9 inches by 9 inches, set in such a manner as to provide a tunnel approximately 30 feet in length, with three 90 degree turns. The tunnel shall have an entrance at one end, and a quarry area at the other end, which shall provide the Judge a view of the dog during the working portion of the test. The dogs should be removed from the den by way of the exit provided at the quarry end of the den. The exit opening should be no smaller than 9 inches by 15 inches and may be longer. The den shall have no additional entrances, exits, or dead ends.

Section 9. Junior Earthdog Test - Qualifying Performance.

The dog shall be brought to the test area entrance on a solid 4 – 6 foot lead. The handler may carry the dog to the release point or may walk the dog on lead to the release point, but the dog may not pass the release point prior to the start of the test. Passing the release point before the judge's instruction will cause the dog to fail. The handler shall stand at the designated starting point, a point directly in front of the den entrance at a distance of approximately 10 feet. The collar and lead must be removed prior to the start of the test. Upon instructions from the Judge, the handler shall release the dog. The handler may at the time of release, give the dog one short command with no penalty. The dog should be released no higher than waist level and may be placed on the ground prior to release. Throwing or pushing the dog in the direction of the den entrance shall not be permitted, and shall cause the dog to fail. After releasing the dog, the handler shall quietly stand at the release point with no further command or signal, and shall not move until instructed by the Judge. Further actions on

the part of the handler during the time the dog is being tested could result in failure.

The timing of the dog shall start when the dog is released by the handler. The dog has 30 seconds to reach the quarry. It may enter and leave the den without penalty, but must reach the quarry within the 30-second time limit. Dogs reaching the quarry within the 30-second time limit, which have not received any encouragement from the handler, shall pass this portion of the test.

Once the dog has reached the quarry it must remain with the quarry until the test is completed. Should the dog leave the quarry area during the test period it shall fail. The Judge shall allow the dog 30 seconds from the time it reaches the quarry to begin working. If the dog fails to begin working within 30 seconds the dog shall fail this portion of the test.

The work must begin, and for the most part continue, at a point within 1 foot (12 inches) from the quarry. Once the dog begins working the quarry, it must work continuously for 60 seconds. Work shall be defined as barking, growling, digging, or any other form of activity that, in the Judges opinion, indicates the dog's willingness to engage the quarry. A change from one form of work to another shall not be considered as a break. Lunging and clearing dirt shall be considered work, as long as the dog stays with the quarry. Intense staring and/or sniffing the quarry should not be considered working. The Judge shall make no attempt to encourage the dog to work, or to continue to work.

Dogs which work the quarry continuously for 60 seconds shall pass this portion of the test.

Upon completion of the test, the Judge should allow the handler to retrieve the dog from the earth. The dog should be removed by way of the top opening at the quarry end of the earth. Dogs which cannot be removed from the den without digging up the dens shall not pass, but difficult recoveries should not be penalized by the judge. The dog shall be taken from the test area as soon as possible and not be allowed to investigate the test area. The dog is under judgement during the time it is in the test area.

The Judge shall mark the judging form with the time, indicating whether the dog passed or failed and may make written comments as provided on the form. The completed judging forms may be held by either the Judge's Steward or the Test Steward, and collected only by the Test Secretary or Test Chairman.

At the completion of each dog's test, the Judge shall inform the handler whether or not the dog passed. Following the class, the Judge shall announce the names of those dogs, which have passed.

Section 10. Senior Earthdog Test.

This test is designed to present the more experienced Earthdog with a more realistic den situation. In the wild, few natural earths are simple tunnels; they are complex, multiple entrance designs. The dog must be able to not only follow the quarry to ground and accurately mark the quarry for the handler, but must also be able to determine the correct direction taken by the quarry. If the quarry has bolted (removed) the dog must leave the den. The Senior Earthdog test is designed to evaluate the dog's ability to use its nose to locate the entrance; follow the trail of the quarry into and through the den; the willingness to enter a steeply sloping tunnel; the dog's ability to identify if the quarry is present or absent; its persistence to keep working the quarry; and the dog's willingness to cooperate with the handler when the quarry is gone.

The Senior Earthdog test shall consist of three parts:

1. The approach to the quarry;
2. Working the quarry;
3. Leaving the den on command.

Section 11. Senior Earthdog Test - Den Design.

The den shall be constructed using the standard liners approximately 9 inches by 9 inches. The liners shall be set in such a manner as to provide a main tunnel approximately 30 feet in length, with three 90-degree turns, a false exit and false den. The false exit shall be between 7 feet and 10 feet in length with one 90-degree turn and set in such a manner as to not be visible to the dog or handler when standing at the point of release.

The false den shall be a side tunnel with no exit, approximately 4 feet in length, with a 12 x 8-inch door located at the top, not more than 3 inches from the end of the tunnel. Directly beneath the door shall be a pile of bedding material, i.e. straw, dry grass, including well used quarry bedding, to provide scent and to simulate the litter/bedding area found in most natural dens.

The false exit and false den shall be set at the second and third 90-degree turn off the main tunnel, the order and placement of which shall be at the club's discretion.

The entrance to the main tunnel and false exit shall be marked by a mound of dirt at least 4 inches higher than

the top of the liner, thus providing a steep entrance to the den of at least a 45 degree incline into the earth. The dirt mound may be camouflaged by natural cover, provided the cover does not restrict entrance to the earth.

Section 12. Senior Earthdog Test - Qualifying Performance.

The dog shall be brought to the test area entrance on a solid 4 – 6 foot lead. The handler may carry the dog to the release point or may walk the dog on lead to the release point, but the dog may not pass the release point prior to the start of the test. This release point shall be approximately 20 feet from the entrance to the earth and not less than 20 feet from the edge of the test area. The handler must remove the lead and collar prior to releasing the dog. Upon instruction from the Judge, the handler shall release the dog. The handler may, at the time of release, give the dog one short command with no penalty. The dog shall be released not higher than waist level, and may be placed on the ground before release. Throwing or pushing the dog in the direction of the den entrance shall not be permitted and shall cause the dog to fail. After releasing the dog, the handler shall quietly stand at the release point, with no further command or signal and shall not move, until instructed by the Judge.

Timing of the dog for the approach portion of the test shall start when the dog is released by the handler. The dog has 90 seconds from the time of release to reach the quarry, provided that it is continuously searching during that time. The dog may enter and leave the den, provided it has not reached the quarry. To earn a qualifying score, the dog must make at least 30 feet of forward progress to reach the quarry. A dog which false marks by vigorously or loudly working in the false den area for more than 15 seconds may not pass.

Once the dog has reached the quarry, it must remain with the quarry until the working portion of the test is completed. Should the dog leave the quarry area during the test it shall fail. The Judge shall allow the dog 15 seconds from the time it reaches the quarry to begin working. If the dog fails to begin working within 15 seconds the dog shall not qualify.

The work must begin, and for the most part continue, at a point within 1-foot (12 inches) from the quarry. Once the dog begins working the quarry, it must work continuously for 90 seconds. Work shall be defined as barking, growling, digging, or any other form of activity, which, in the Judges opinion, indicates the dog's willingness to engage the quarry. A change from one form of work

to another shall not be considered as a break. Lunging and clearing dirt shall be considered work, as long as the dog stays with the quarry. Intense staring and/or sniffing the quarry should not be considered working. The Judge shall make no attempt to encourage the dog to work or to continue to work.

Dogs that work for less than 90 seconds shall not pass.

Once the dog has completed the working portion of the test, the Judge shall seal the viewing area, remove the quarry and seal the quarry area, and have the caged quarry removed a sufficient distance so as not to be a distraction. The Judge shall then instruct the handler to recall the dog. The handler may go to the entrance of the den to call the dog, and may use a whistle. No bait, hides, noisemakers or toys may be used to recall the dog from the den. The handler is permitted to reach into the entrance of the den to retrieve the dog.

Dogs that exit the den (from any exit) and are retrieved by the handler within 90 seconds from the judge's instruction to recall shall pass this portion of the test. The handler is positioned at the main den entrance and may leave the den entrance to retrieve the dog once it has left the den but must return to the main entrance immediately if the dog re-enters the earth. Dogs which exit the den in more than 90 seconds shall not pass.

The dog shall be taken from the test area as soon as possible and should not be allowed to investigate the test area.

Dogs must pass all three parts of the test in order to qualify. The dog is under judgement during the time that it is in the test area.

The Judge shall mark the judging form with the time, indicating whether the dog passed or failed and may make written comments as provided on the form. The completed judging forms may be held by either the Judge's Steward or the Test Steward, and collected only by the Test Secretary or Chairman.

At the completion of each dog's test, the Judge shall inform the handler whether or not the dog passed. Following the class, the Judge shall announce the names of those dogs that have passed.

Section 13. Master Earthdog Test.

This test is designed to come as close as possible to

a natural hunting situation. In an actual hunt, the dogs would be expected to work with an unfamiliar brace-mate over a long distance to locate and mark an active den for the hunter. Once the dog is allowed to enter the den, the dog is expected to negotiate a den, which varies in its internal dimensions. After locating the quarry in the den, the dog should work while the hunter digs down to it and then allow itself to be removed. In addition to this, the dog is expected to wait in an honoring position for his turn while a brace-mate works the quarry. The Master Earthdog Test is designed to evaluate the dog's willingness to work cooperatively with a brace-mate; to search over an extended distance; to be responsive to the handler's directions; to locate and alert the handler to a heavily scented den entrance; to work through a den with differing and challenging dimensions; to allow itself to be handled in the face of quarry; and to remain under control while another dog works.

Section 14. Master Earthdog Test - Den Design.

The suggested Senior Earthdog tunnel is used for the Master test with modifications discussed below.

The den shall be constructed using the standard liners approximately 9 inches by 9 inches. The liners shall be set in such a manner as to provide a main tunnel between 30 and 40 feet in length, with a minimum of three 90-degree turns, a false exit and false den. The false exit shall be between 7 feet and 10 feet in length with one 90-degree turn and set in such a manner as to not be visible to the dog or handler when standing at the point of release. The false exit shall be set at any 90-degree turn off the main tunnel except the first turn. The false den may be placed at any turn off including the first. The order and placement of the false entrance and false den shall be at the club's discretion. The opening for removing the dog at the quarry shall be 9 inches wide and 15 inches long.

Both openings to the den shall not be readily visible and shall be blocked with a removable grate obstruction. The quarry cage shall be located in the main den entrance approximately 12 inches behind the grate obstruction or may be located securely in the quarry end of the den, but must be well covered to prevent the dogs from finding the quarry from above the ground. A scent line of approximately 20 feet shall lead to the entrance. An unscented false empty den (approximately three feet in length to a dead end) is located midway along the hunt-to-the-den path where it is visible to the dogs.

If desired, the judge may add randomly directed scent lines to the approach field by dragging a cage containing

rats or by scattering used quarry bedding. These lines should not lead to the unscented den or to the occupied den. Neither the dog's reaction to these scent-lines nor his failure to notice them shall be grounds for failure for that reason alone.

There must be a constriction point and an obstacle in the tunnel, neither of which shall be placed within 5 feet of the entrance or the quarry. The constriction point consists of boards or slats, approximately 1 and 1/2 inches wide, and 18 inches long, placed opposite each other to narrow the tunnel opening to approximately 6 inches. The ends of the boards or slats should be beveled or rounded.

The obstruction should be a 6-inch diameter PVC pipe, placed crossways in the tunnel, and loosely mounted on a one-inch dowel so that it is movable (it should move approximately 2 1/2 inches each way). The portion of the liner above the obstruction (9 inches on each side of the pipe's centerline, for a total of 18 inches) is elevated six inches over the main liner, and naturally covered or otherwise camouflaged.

Section 15. Master Earthdog Test - Qualifying Performance.

Dogs are worked two at a time. The braces shall be drawn at random, and whenever possible dogs owned by the same person shall not be drawn to be worked together. The dog shall wear a flat collar, and the handler shall have a 4 – 6 foot solid leather or web lead.

The handlers are positioned with the Judge at a starting point located not less than 100 yards and not more than 300 yards from the entrance of the occupied den. The handlers shall stay with the judge until directed otherwise but shall refrain from making attempts to influence the judge's evaluations of the dogs. A judge's steward will be positioned near the den entrance to assist with overly aggressive dogs.

During the test, the dogs are expected to work together without interference or aggression. The judge may pick up and excuse from the test any dog which willfully interferes with its braced mate, either playfully or with malice, or any dog which in the opinion of the judge is running out of control. The judge must disqualify any dog which attacks its braced mate. The judge must report any incident of interference or attack to the test secretary, who shall report such incident to the AKC. Any dogs that have been disqualified twice shall be barred from participation in AKC Earthdog events until reinstated by the AKC. The remaining dog shall be picked

up and shall run as or with the bye-dog.

The judge and handlers shall proceed in the direction of the den entrance and shall walk at a normal pace. The handlers must stay with the judge and may give direction to their dogs either with voice or a whistle but should not be allowed to interfere with the bracemate. When the judge reaches the empty den, the judge must direct the handlers to call the dogs to determine whether the den is occupied or not. Dogs which fail to respond to their handler's order to check the empty den can not pass this portion of the test. Dogs must acknowledge the empty den and may investigate, but dogs barking in or working in the empty den cannot qualify. The dogs must reach the inhabited den area before the judge reaches the scent line.

JUDGE'S GUIDELINES

During the hunt to the den portion of the test, the judge shall judge the following qualities of the dogs:

Searching Ability – evidenced by an aptitude to range a controllable distance away from the handler and cover ground in a vigorous search for quarry and an aptitude to recognize promising cover and by eagerness to explore it, regardless of hazards or discomfort.

Obedience to Commands – demonstrated by the dogs' attentiveness and responsiveness to the handler. A dog should at all times be under the control of the handler.

Endurance – demonstrated by the capacity to compete through the duration of the test and to go on as long as it may be necessary.

Patience – evidenced by a willingness to stay with a problem encountered as long as there is a possibility of achieving success in a workmanlike manner, rather than taking a chance finding the quarry more quickly through guesswork or gambling.

Adaptability – being able to adjust quickly to changes in scenting conditions and being able to work harmoniously with a variety of running mates.

Independence – the ability to be self-reliant and to refrain from becoming upset or influenced by the actions of faulty brace mates.

Cooperation – demonstrated when a dog works harmoniously with others, doing as much of the work as possible in an honest and efficient manner and yet being

aware of and honoring the accomplishment of running mate without jealousy or disruption of the test.

The judge shall stop at the beginning of the scent line and shall allow the dogs sufficient time in the den area to mark the entrance to the den. The judge shall evaluate the dog's ability to decisively mark the den entrance. The qualities that the judge shall consider shall be the dog's ability to search for and locate the scented den entrance, to decisively indicate that he has found the true entrance and to stay focused on the entrance until retrieved by the handler at the direction of the judge. If the dog investigates the area around the den, his strongest marking behavior must be obvious at the scented entrance. The dog should continue to mark it as the handler approaches to pick him up.

The dogs are expected to work together in the den area. If necessary, the first dog to reach and indicate the den may be removed by the handler and the second dog given the opportunity to indicate interest in the den entrance. Dogs picked up to prevent them from leaving the den area cannot receive a qualifying score. If neither dog indicates the den entrance they cannot qualify but may continue to be tested.

The first dog to indicate the entrance shall be held by the handler while the entrance obstacles are removed. At the direction of the judge, the handler shall release the dog at the den entrance and may give one command at release. The handler must remove the lead and collar prior to releasing the dog. If the dog exits the den prior to reaching the quarry, the handler may give the dog one additional command without penalty. The dog must reach the quarry within 90 seconds and should begin work within 15 seconds. The dog must work the quarry steadily for 90 seconds. The viewing area should be sealed and the dog must work in such a manner that the judge can determine that the dog is vigorously working the quarry. After the dog has worked for 60 seconds, the judge will create a distraction over the quarry/cage to simulate digging sounds. The dog must continue to work and ignore the digging distraction. Once the judge begins the digging distraction, the handler may walk to the quarry end and stand quietly behind the judge. At the direction of the judge, the handler then removes the dog from the working area within 15 seconds, without resistance which results in injury to the handler or the dog. No bait, hides, noisemakers, or toys may be used to lure the dog out. A collar and leash shall not be attached until after removal.

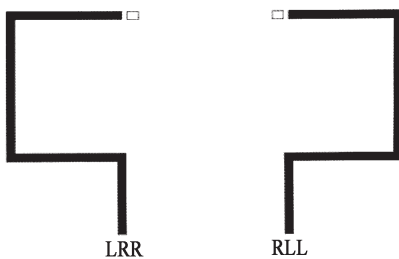
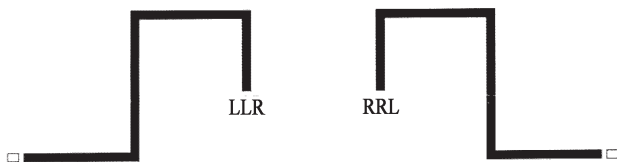
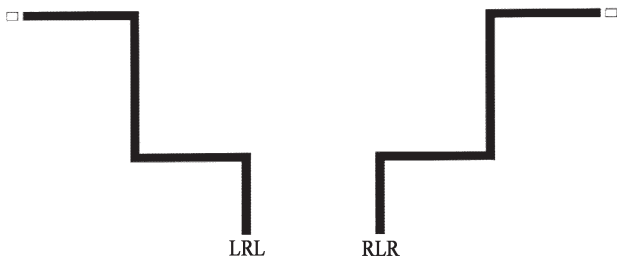
The second dog to indicate the entrance shall be staked approximately 10 feet from the main entrance, using a twist in the ground stake with a tether about 2 feet long. The honoring dog shall be collared with a flat collar and the handler may attach a lead to the collar. The honoring dog must show interest and may be occasionally vocal, but shall not bark continuously. The handler may stand or kneel next to the honoring dog and may caution the dog to be quiet. The handler may use the lead attached to the collar or hand for mild corrections. Excessive corrections may cause the dog to fail. The handler may not physically restrain the dog and shall not obstruct the judge's view of the dog during the honoring portion of the test. At the completion of the working portion, the first dog shall assume the honoring position.

Dogs must pass all parts of the test in order to qualify.

Section 16. Testing a Bye-Dog (the odd dog remaining at the end).

Whenever there will be a bye-dog, the Test Committee may draw or otherwise select a bracemate from the dogs that have run, or use a dog that is not entered in the class. If one dog in a brace is excused for aggressiveness, the remaining dog is moved down to the bottom of the running order to run with the bye-dog (if there is no bye-dog, the foregoing methods will determine a bracemate). All dogs must be started with a bracemate, but never with a dog that will be under judgement at a later time.

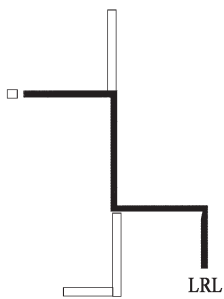
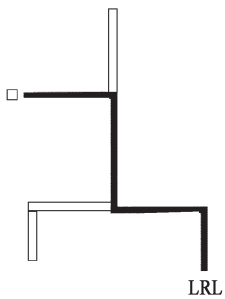
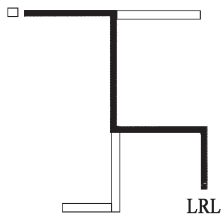
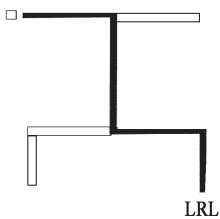
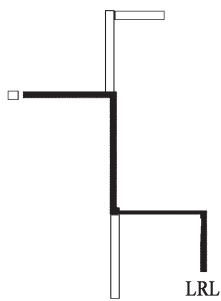
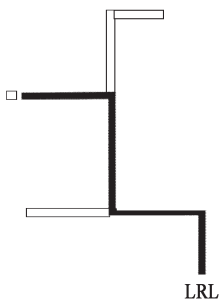
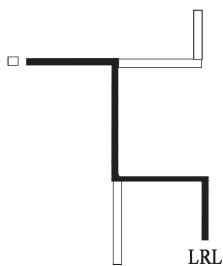
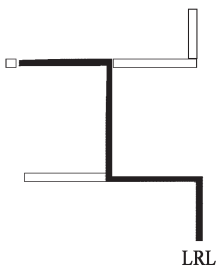
Junior Earthdog Den Designs



Bad Designs

L=Left turn
R=Right turn

Senior Earthdog Den Design Variations



Similar variations on other main tunnel designs (RLR, LRR, RLL, LLR, RRL) gives 96 total variations.

AKC Code of Sportsmanship

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

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